

## Introduced by Senator Vasconcellos

February 20, 2003

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An act relating to air quality.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 444, as introduced, Vasconcellos. Greenhouse gases.

Existing law requires the State Air Resources Board, by January 1, 2005, to develop and adopt regulations that achieve the maximum feasible and cost-effective reductions of greenhouse gases from motor vehicles. Existing legislative findings declare that it is in the best interests of the state, the nation, and the Earth as a whole to encourage voluntary actions to achieve all economically beneficial reductions of greenhouse gas emissions in the state.

This bill would make additional legislative findings relating to the effects of greenhouse gases and global warming, and would declare the intent of the Legislature to significantly reduce emissions of greenhouse gases in the state to the extent practicable pursuant to provisions of the Kyoto Accord.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (1) The surface temperature of the Earth has risen by nearly a
- 4 full degree Fahrenheit in the past century, and that warming trend
- 5 has accelerated during the past two decades.



1 (2) Scientists are certain that human activities are changing the  
2 composition of the Earth's atmosphere through the buildup of  
3 greenhouse gases, which consist primarily of carbon dioxide,  
4 methane, and oxides of nitrogen.

5 (3) New compelling evidence shows that most of the warming  
6 over the last 50 years is attributable to human activities, which  
7 result in the production of greenhouse gases.

8 (4) Greenhouse gases trap heat in the Earth's atmosphere and  
9 tend to have a warming effect on the planet. By increasing the  
10 levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, human activities are  
11 exacerbating Earth's natural greenhouse effect.

12 (5) Confirmation of 20th-century global warming is further  
13 substantiated by melting glaciers, decreased snow cover in the  
14 northern hemisphere, and warming below the Earth's surface.

15 (6) Globally, sea level has risen four to eight inches over the  
16 past century.

17 (7) Increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases are likely to  
18 accelerate the rate of climate change.

19 (8) Nearly three out of every four people in the state believe  
20 global warming should be treated as a serious problem.

21 (9) The state's agriculture, water resources, forests, wildlife,  
22 coastal areas, and the health of the state's residents are vulnerable  
23 to the changes that global warming may bring.

24 (10) The Bush administration has refused to ratify the Kyoto  
25 Accord, an international treaty that proposes to cut the emission of  
26 greenhouse gases and in turn help slow the rate of global warming.

27 (b) It is therefore the intent of the Legislature to significantly  
28 reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases in the state to the extent  
29 practicable pursuant to the provisions of the Kyoto Accord.

